

# Värttinä

## iki

Värttinä kicks off their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2003 with the release of their 10<sup>th</sup> album, iki. Recorded in Helsinki in autumn 2002, Värttinä returned to producer Janne Haavisto who worked on three previous Värttinä albums. The band rehearsed solidly throughout early and mid 2002, fine tuning their many new compositions and arrangements. By the time they entered Finnvox Studios in Helsinki in September, with Haavisto and long time engineer Risto Hemmi, the band and songs were in top condition, resulting in one of the fastest, easiest and stimulating recording sessions that Värttinä, Haavisto and Hemmi had ever experienced. Most of the recordings were done live with very few overdubs. After four weeks, the album was finished and what emerged is a stunning achievement that insiders exclaim is the most compelling and satisfying Värttinä album to date.

Before and during recording, Värttinä and Haavisto set out to capture the band at their most intimate and unadorned and they succeeded beyond everyone's expectations. Most songs were composed by guitarist Antto Varilo and singer Mari Kaasinen, with many traditional elements remaining intact. Susan Aho contributed two songs while bouzouki/sax man Janne Lappalainen delivered three. The overall feel is one of simplicity, melody and, as an extension of their Ilmatar album, air. The title itself, iki, ...the primal, eternal breath, reveals the essence of the album and the true spirit of Värttinä's music since inception. This is the album that we have all been waiting for.

iki will be released in Finland by BMG on February 24, 2003. Frea (Benelux), Westpark Music (Germany, Austria, Switzerland) and Resistencia (Spain) will release almost simultaneously and NorthSide (North America) will release on March 11. Distribution is also set for UK, France and Hungary and other territories.

Värttinä's first celebration of their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a live broadcast on BBC Radio 3 World Music Day on 1.1.2003. Additionally, Värttinä were named by US magazine Utne Reader as one of the world's "Movers and Shakers - The 40 Most Exciting, Soulful Artists of 2003, 40 Artists Who Will Shake the World".

Värttinä's 1994 album Aitara is being re-released by BMG Finland in January 2003.

Värttinä continue celebration with a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert in Helsinki on February 28. Other concerts take them to Budapest for their third appearance at Pepsi Island Festival plus shows in Scotland, Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Switzerland and beyond...

### VÄRTTINÄ 2003

**MARI KAASINEN - voice, SUSAN AHO - voice, JOHANNA VIRTANEN - voice,  
ANTTO VARILO - guitars, JANNE LAPPALAINEN - bouzouki & sax,  
LASSI LOGREN - violin, MARKKU LEPISTÖ - accordion,  
HANNU RANTANEN - double bass, JASKA LUKKARINEN - drums & percussion**

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